

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0986

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY UN THINKING ON UNEF AND UNDOF WITHDRAWAL
IF MANDATES NOT EXTENDED

1. UN SECRETARIAT IS JUST BEGINNING TO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH WITHDRAWING UNEF AND UNDOF IF THEIR MANDATES ARE NOT RENEWED IN APRIL AND MAY. CONTINGENCY PLANS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PREPARED. THUS, COMMENTS WHICH FOLLOW OF SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LIU DO NO MORE THAN REFLECT PRELIMINARY VIEWS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG UN PEACEKEEPING OFFICIALS.

2. LIU SAID SECRETARIAT HAD AS YET HEARD NOTHING FROM PARTIES TO INDICATE THEY WOULD OPPOSE EXTENSION OF MANDATES. ONLY EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PERMREP HAD ADDRESSED QUESTION, AND HE WAS CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT UNEF COULD BE EXTENDED SO LONG AS PREPARATIONS FOR RESUMING GENEVA CONFERENCE WERE IN TRAIN. LIU SAID SYG AND USYG URQUHART CONSIDERED TANGIBLE MOVEMENT TOWARD GENEVA TO BE THE KEY TO UNEF/ UNDOF RENEWAL. HE WONDERED IF ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO CONVENE CONFERENCE FOR A SYMBOLIC, INAUGURAL SESSION
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PRIOR TO APRIL 24 UNEF DEADLINE. IT MIGHT THEN BE POSSIBLE

TO SCHEDULE SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR MAY OR EVEN JUNE AFTER THERE HAD BEEN TIME FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS. DIFFICULTY. HOWEVER, WAS THAT ARABS WOULD PROBABLY RESPOND TO SLIGHTEST HINT OF PROCRASTINATION BY EITHER REFUSING TO RENEW MANDATES OR, AT MOST, AGREEING TO ONE OR TWO MONTH EXTENSIONS.

3. IF WORST HAPPENED AND ARABS REFUSED TO AGREE TO EXTENSION, OVERWHELMING PROBABILITY IN LIU'S VIEW WAS THAT A NEW WAR WAS AT HAND AND UN'S PEACEKEEPING ROLE AT AN END. NEVERTHELESS, SECRETARIAT RECOGNIZED THAT UNTSO WOULD REMAIN ON BOTH FRONTS AND THAT THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY EXISTED OF OBSERVERS PROVIDING A UN PRESENCE IN BUFFER ZONES. LIU SAID SYG WOULD NEVER UNDERTAKE SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT EXPLICIT AGREEMENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL. MOREOVER, WALDHEIM WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY WANT A SUBSTANTIAL AUGMENTATION OF UNTSO FROM PRESENT STRENGTH OF 298. IF THIS WAS POLITICALLY UNFEASIBLE, HOWEVER, LIU THOUGHT SYG WOULD AGREE TO DEPLOYMENT OF TOKEN NUMBER OF OBSERVERS IN ONE OR BOTH BUFFERS.

4. FROM MILITARY STANDPOINT, LIU CONTINUED, ONLY RATIONAL DISPOSITION OF OBSERVERS WOULD BE ALONG ONE BUFFER LINE -- AND HE ASSUMED THAT IN SINAI EASTERN LINE WAS ONLY ONE TO WHICH COUNCIL MIGHT AGREE. NEVERTHELESS, IF COUNCIL WANTED MEREST TOKEN UN PRESENCE ALONG BOTH LINES OF A BUFFER, HE THOUGHT WANDLEHIM WOULD GO ALONG.

5. LIU REMARKED THAT IF COUNCIL FAILED TO RENEW MANDATES, PEACEKEEPING FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW IN ORDERLY FASHION, PROBABLY ONE CONTINGENT AT A TIME. HE ASSUMED ALL WOULD RETURN TO COUNTRIES WHICH PROVIDED THEM, AND DOUBTED ANY WOULD BE KEPT IN RESERVE IN CYPRUS FOR POSSIBLE RETURN TO MIDDLE EAST.
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